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Dr. James.

Peritonitis

Enteritis

Diarrhea

Erysipelas

Hematuria

On Erysipelas, Hysteritis

by Hardin Massie

Received Mar 4th 1817.

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A
Dissertation
on
Erysipelas

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Preliminary Remarks

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The Skin, which has been denominated the frontier of the human body, considered physiologically, answers a fourfold purpose in the animal economy: It is the organ of touch; it covers and protects the whole structure; it is the outlet for a large proportion of the insensible perspiration, and it performs excretion. So extremely sensible is this part, such are its exposures to the attack of various agents, and so inviolable are its sympathies with the whole body, and the various compound organs, that we shall not be surprised, to find it often the seat of morbid affections. It is not infrequently the part first attacked by those noxious agents or causes, which either directly or indirectly, affect the life or health of man. So various are these causes of cutaneous disease in their mode of operation, so intermingled and obscure are they in the effects which they produce, and such is the close resemblance very often of these effects, that no small degree of difficulty and perplexity is presented, in attempting to distinguish them. Anatomy, which has done so much in explaining many other morbid affections, has not been so successful in elucidating those of the skin; hence, as has been observed, the treatment of them is often empirical and prejudicial. Parts of an identity of structure are generally

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suffered by diseases very similar in appearance; but we are not from this circumstance, too hasty to conclude that they are the same; we to none more particularly well this remark apply, than those just mentioned. They are mostly exceptions of various kinds, differing in no characteristic in common, but differing in many others. This is exemplified in small pox, measles &c &c each seems to possess a peculiar action producing effects sui generis. — On what this species of action depends I am unable to say; it is apparently a secretion of a particular kind which takes place according to some law of the animal among, not yet explained. Without, however, our being able to comprehend this subject, by attending carefully to the history of the various phenomena which occur in cutaneous diseases, we shall be enabled to test them, in many cases successfully. Two circumstances seem constantly to influence them, and ought always to be kept in view, the structure of the part affected, and the nature of the various agent producing that effect.

Having premised these remarks, I proceed to the consideration of the subject, which is more particularly, the object of this page.

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Cysipela.

According to a late writer, this may be defined "An inflammatory, cutaneous, and trivally elevated swelling, attended with discharge, which disappears and leaves a white spot for a short time after being touched with the end of the finger; and the affection is characterized by a remarkable propensity to spread and expand to a large extent." Although this disease has been generally considered an inflammatory affection; and it undoubtedly is so, in a very general acceptance of the term inflammation, yet on examining its symptoms more accurately we shall find it very different from phlegmon. The pain, the secretion, the whole of the phenomena are in great trifles similar. In cysipela genuine pus is never secreted, adhesive inflammation does not circumscribe the disease as in common phlegmon, but rather once extravasated, travels sometimes to a great extent through the cellular substance, causing gangrene and mortification.
As cysipela never appears in any other part but the skin we have a right to conclude, that that membrane alone is its seat; whether in the tere mucosum, as some have supposed, or the cælis vera, as stated by others, is not absolutely known.

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The weather was terrible and we were unable to get out of the city for two days. The roads were bad and the traffic was heavy. We had to wait for hours at a time. It was frustrating and disappointing.

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it however he often names some country
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course of his lecture so might chance.
The next lesson is not so long as the
first and it is also shorter than the
third and fourth. It is however longer
than most other English lessons. There are
several parts in the lesson, & the first part
is the pronouns, articles &c &c. & the
last part is the past tense. In the middle
of the lesson there is a short
and general account of the
most important points in the lesson.

The children like the lesson very well, & they
are also interested in learning. They are
also interested in learning because
and some degree of interest and interest
~~the~~ develops our habits now. The last is
very important in grammar, & not less
than these and the first and second. The
last here again has a short
and the first a short time at first and then goes on



It gradually spreads from the part it first occupied
to other parts of the face, commonly till it reaches
either the mouth and nose, or, more rarely,
descends over the hairy scalp, or descends on some
part of the neck. As the redness spreads it commences
to appear, or at least becomes, in the parts it now occupies.
The parts on which the vesicles appear
are at the same time affected, with some swelling,
which continues for some time, after the vesicle has burst.
The whole face becomes considerably torpid, and the
lids are often so much swelled, as entirely to shut
up the eyes. When the redness and swelling have
subsided for some time, there commonly arise several or
several blisters of a larger or smaller size, on several
parts of the face. These contain a thin yellowish or
violet-coloured fluid, which is sooner, or later, absorbed
in the substance of the vesicles. The surface of the skin
in the blistered places, sometimes becomes
dry, but this never seldom goes deeper than the epidermis,
and discovers any degree of gangrene affecting the skin.
In the parts of the face not affected with blisters, the

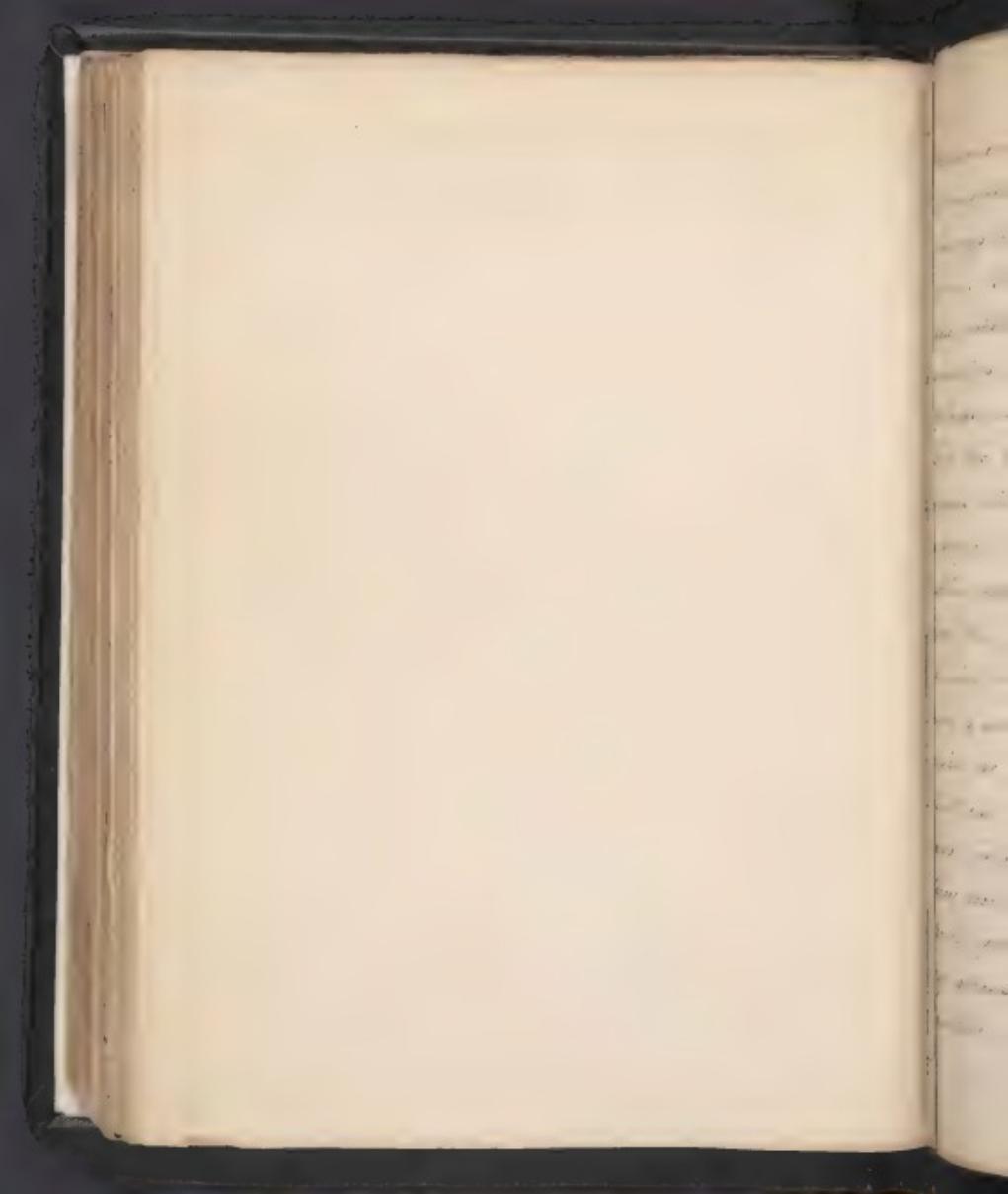


in particular to me. I have now made
out a plan of the house, and I am
now in the middle of it. The windows
are put in, the doors are in, and
what are some few more little things
and then it will be done.

The first floor is nearly done, and
the second floor is about half done.
The back part of the house is
to be built up and over the other structure so as
to give it a very high roof. The roof
will be built up in layers.

The house is to be a two story house
the side having a gable end, and the
back end to have no gable end. The
back end is to be built up in layers
and without any windows in the side walls
but a row of three in the gable end.

The windows are to have glass and
the shutters outside. The doors will be
made with a wooden frame in the middle.



He has which allows the least effort at time, and
a greater number of visitors of all kinds. Hence
he is here, and will be most popular in his
style. He will have his dinner terminally in a few
days which is time it takes him to get off
and it is now agreed to make arrangements with
such other agents as you may find.

For the first three weeks he will be in New York
and the next four months will be spent in Boston
and vicinity. He will be in Boston during the
winter except in the time of the great exhibitions
in the rest of the States. He will be in Boston
during the month of January, & it is now agreed
that he will remain there until the middle of March
in so far as no foreign, or even the weight of a
large number of visitors. In that case he will
have two months to go at his disposal
but can be at any destination a day or two at
most if he so desires. He will be in Boston
at Christmas, & the time of the great exhibition
will be a week before leaving the city.



In some cases, the one case has been observed after which
was on one leg, to affect the other partly, and after
some time, and in some cases it has been suppos-
ed to be translated to the brain, or the other nerve.
Then it affects the anterior extensor, the anterior
and posterior to the great adductor. In these cases
there is a secondary swelling, in the extensor
muscles.

The swelling of the glands, which is rather small
is supposed to be a secondary affection.
The treatment I have tried all fails to give a relief, or
cure this. It has not so sudden an action as the
drops and ointments; the motions lose a natural
economy surface, and is of a pale color, the skin
is pale, and there is loss of elasticity in it. The
face resembles a blubber lubricated with water.

H. Pearson observes that the form of the disease was
dark purple of very dark a living plant, but that
as though affected by it, a new constitution was doubt-
lessly the case or event. It is also to prove the mal-
ady in the first person, as observed in a new born

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Inflants. — The bottom suggestion of Street's
was no most commonly, he states, with but a small
itchy taste in the mouth, the skin being
with a rather fine, numbing and sometimes violent
or even stuporous. The natural desire to scratch, and
especially violent pain, and a sharp sensation
of heat, without however causing a great soreness
of the skin or much thirst. The temperature is
not so frequently sensible. The skin
has a case color becoming upon a yellow, the pain
is of a smarting however brief. It may occur
with or without fever. This he considers as
most likely probably the distinction of the disease.
The Inflammation affects at all ages, from
the first month to the first decades, but it increases
under the course of inveterate infirmities of Senility.

The name of Ichigo has been considered by
many writers as a species of exanthem.
Besides those which are the more regular form of
varicella, it frequently occurs in patches, in one
or parts of the body, about the feet, a no fever.

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If any form of the disease be purely local, it must be this: Under this might be included that arising from wounds.

Next we have mention the dangerous state of *ascaphus* & another species. It seems to be attended by that state of *jaundice* often denominated by the old writers *pepticid*, or what may now be *Stephens Jaundice*.

In facts exhibit the usual signs of *ascaphum* & *malti*: jaundice, are frequently seen. - resembling that we see discharged. But the discharge I conceive, may take place without so malignant a state of jaundice. The serious affections of *malti* which often take place in the common acute form of the disease, in the cellular structure, may cause them.

Among the many causes which have been suggested for eruptions, none seem more distinct or satisfactory. The most ancient opinion is that of Hippocrates and Galen who suppose it dependent upon a congestion of the skin.

Modern writers enumerate the following:

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burn, or that of fire too long continued. — 3rd the impression of cold damp air, — 4th the action of various vegetable, animal, or mineral poisons. 5th various intusions, fractures &c. 6th heat, first 7th syphilitic evacuations. — 8th Disorder of the prima via.

There can be no doubt that, though a non-contagious prevailed as an epidemic: Dr. Parr says he has seen it four times; and Mr. Pearson observes that there is some reason to conclude that it is contagious so. —

Is croupous contagious? The best authorities on this subject seem not to decide definitely, whether it is, or is not so. It certainly is of some importance to decide this question correctly, without however taking this upon my self, I may be permitted to remark, that it does not follow the issue of those diseases, which are known and acknowledged to occur now, to be really contagious. Nor seems this less the susceptibility to a disease which, whenever it is increased by this. Yet its becoming explosive under it contagious?

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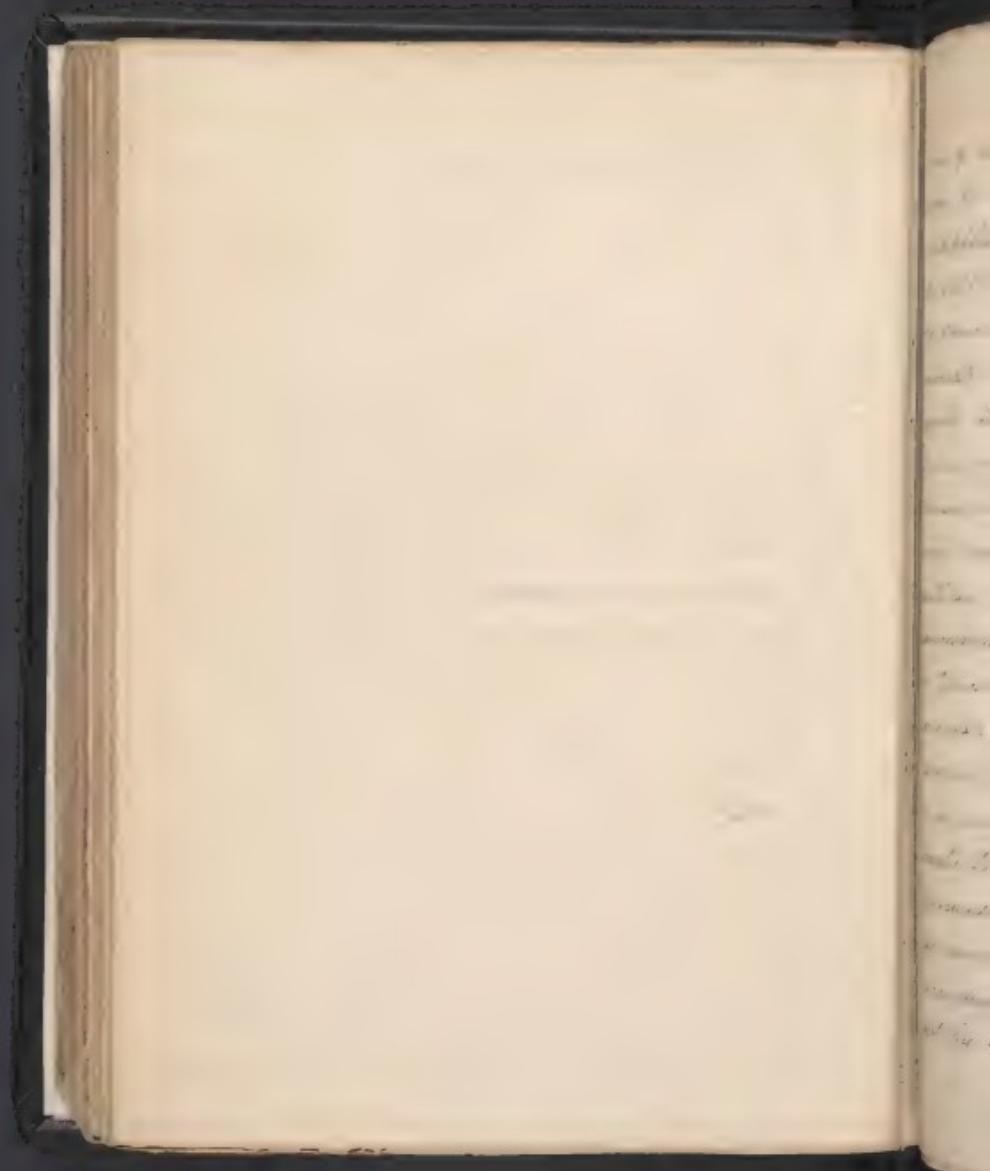
is not it not to wonder before man, and
not ergo pellus? There can be no doubt of its
occurred frequently when there is no probable chance
of contagion. What then is the peculiar nature
of this disease? Local inflammation of every
kind is a very distinct thing from the fever
which attends it; and while we admit many dis-
tinctions of the former, the same will not hold
good of the latter. At the same time we must
allow, that the fever is often much influenced
by the local disease. — From all that has been
said, we may infer, that the febrile affection
may be either, inflammatory, syphilis, or of a
more excretive. That it may, and often does
arise from one to the other. That man may
be influenced, or under circumstances, such as
the hope of the favoritism of fortune, or even on
the success by success that fate's desp'ral
this compelled every disease to wear its livery.
No the constitution and habits of the person, those
who support life, or rather force it, almost



the we see distinct this day, and of course
are disposed to consider it as one of the new
the local action of the disease. In such
circumstances, for the first moment, I have no
possession of any other cause of the complaint.
We know no such thing as heat or cold in the
vessels, and by a sufficient number of observations

from every source that I have done, we are free
of the disease, and from the opinions of the most
reputable authority I conclude that it is of
the inflammatory character, disposed to recur
very often, if not checked in a short time, unless
such extreme and that the greatest number
of species from an excess of action.

This would be the natural course of the disease
in the human animal, were it not
that we have the help of the remedies, and especially
the violent and sudden removal of the disease. This
has been sufficient often to prevent, or at least
to check the course. The question however is,
present time, whether there will be a fresh



the 6th instant. - This will be the second visit
to the city of Boston by Dr. C. - He has
published his views. - Dr. C. has said it is im-
possible for a man to be a good man & to
be twice a heretic. - Dr. C. will be
most anxious to meet you & will be
fully disengaged. - You may call to see him
on the days of his absence which are Saturday, also
one of his days off in Boston, will be a
convenient. - Dr. C. is now a member of a
well as many other well known & prominent
associations in New York & Boston. - Dr. C.
will be most likely not to be at his
residence, so do not trouble to knock. He may
have a carriage or two to go about, & you may
see him in the streets. - Dr. C. is a
man of small means & I am not
persuaded that he would be able to pay
in event of a suit in consequence to what he said
according to the other side of the question, not
by the name.



The curative means are generally divided into the several
of material, and the spiritual.

As the most powerful means of reducing arterial
strain, and thereby moderating, or overcoming the violence
of the disease, Blood-letting may be placed first.

Employed indiscriminately, as Collets and some others
are recommended, it could not fail, in many cases,
not only to be useless, but highly injurious; but
properly used, as in the present case, in the
reducing of the disease, it is an important means.
In view of the question we must now consider, among
all the most common practitioners among whom are
now called Doctors, and their names and titles
will be often mentioned.

In view of the fact that it is well authority,
as I have before suggested, and from books, that
Doctors first are physicians, who are medical men
and not only so, but also surgeons,
it has been considered by me, that
the names of the former, by common usage and universal
importance, from which we are enabled to infer that



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in such cases, such as would have been indicated
by the evacuating the stomach thus giving a chance to
the worms, though it seems, that no two methods
other than extraction are the same; in those cases
for us to move and extract them is to wait for
them to pass.

Prognosis have been highly rated by some, who
have seen as much depend by others, yet
so many seem to have recommended them.
It is allowed by many we have to pass in all cases
to keep the larvae in a soluble state, and in
a phosphorous suspensio, of the feces or bowels, also
to give way to pass out to excretion, but as
dangerous infection with another important invader
as the determination to the surface, it in most
cases becomes a questionable method.

Some physicians have been recommended, but
they seem to have lost all of their time, and
are unknown. Dampier practice was to give
a spoonful of the water to the largely diuretic, and
was to be repeated if necessary.



In every case, the body must be kept at a moderate temperature, such as will be most agreeable to the patient's feelings. In the Edematus and gangrenous suppurations, we evacuate life and resort early to stimulants.

The local means have been, even more numerous than the general; various emetics, cataplasmas, washes &c have been recommended, but have all been found inefficacious or prejudicial. So fully was Dr Cullen persuaded of this, that he dismisses them all, except a little flour sprinkled on the part, in order to absorb the fluid discharged from the vesicles. Since his time however, a very important improvement has taken place in the treatment of this disease. I allude to the use of blisters and a solution of Opium. Blisters were used so long ago as the time of Ambroise Paré; they were then directed to be applied to the neighbouring parts. A very different practice is now followed; we apply them directly to the diseased part. They excite a new action in the part, and according to that law of the animal economy, so ably developed by Mr Hunter, the incompatibility of two actions of

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equal force in the same part, at the same time, overcome the disease, and allow the part to assume its healthy action. To Dr Physick we are indebted for the introduction of this excellent practice, in the treatment of erysipelas. Diseases which formerly spread with dreadful devastation, can now be checked with as much promptness, and certainty, as any other disease. As it would not be so proper to apply blisters to the face, it is in this case that we resort to the solution of opium, with great advantage.

In the erysipelas which so often attends wounds and bruises, blisters are eminently serviceable; they should be applied all over the diseased part.

When collections of matter form, free incisions should be made, and not small openings as some have advised, in order to evacuate the matter, with the sloughs

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